

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT
UPON THE
HEALTH OF WOLVERHAMPTON
FOR THE YEAR 1940

BY

R. H. H. JOLLY, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS
OF THE AREA.EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

AREA OF THE BOROUGH	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,113 Acres.
POPULATION (Registrar General's estimate)	Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	146,300
	Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	142,100
	Consus 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	133,212
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	...	...	...	...	...	...	40,840
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	...	...	...	£969,045
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3,823
LIVE) Legitimate	2,318	1,201	1,117	BIRTH)			
BIRTHS) Illegitimate	32	39	43	RATE)			16.4
STILL BIRTHS	38	47	41				
Rate per 1,000 Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	35.4
DEATHS	1,858	974	884	DEATH)			
				RATE)			13.1
NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION	...	...	...	...	...	...	542
(Excess of births over deaths in the year).							
Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Deaths.						
(a) Puerperal Sepsis.	-			RATE PER	)		0.00
(b) Other Puerperal Causes	8			1,000 BIRTHS)			3.20
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER	(Legitimate (136)	...	...	...			58
ONE YEAR PER 1,000 BIRTHS	(Illegitimate (9)	...	...	...			110
	(Total (145)	...	...	...			60
DEATH RATE from Measles (1)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01
" " " Whooping Cough (4)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.03
" " " Diarrhoea and Enteritis (13)							
	(Under 2 yrs. per 1,000 Births)	...	...	...	...	...	5.55
" " " Cancer (206)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.45
" " " Respiratory Tuberculosis (90)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.63
" " " all forms of Tuberculosis (107)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.75

Note:- The figures in the above table are those supplied by the Registrar General.

SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN
THE AREA.

The work of the Health Department was considerably handicapped during 1940 by the calling up of further members of the male staff and the great difficulty experienced in replacing them by men over military age. Although normal activities were lessened owing to the partial cessation of re-housing, additional Civil Defence duties began to demand more and more of the time of sanitary inspectors.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Service was able to function normally throughout the year in spite of the fact that Health Visitors were voluntarily occupied at First Aid Posts in their leisure time.

A. VITAL STATISTICS.(i) Population.

At the census in 1911 the population of Wolverhampton was 95,357, in 1921 it was 102,373, and in 1931 (following a considerable borough extension) it was 134,400. For the year 1940 the Registrar General has given two items of population -

(1) for calculating the Birth Rate - 146,300

(2) for calculating the Death Rate - 142,100

Since the middle of 1940 a large number of persons have found temporary residence in the town, many of them official or unofficial evacuees although Wolverhampton has not been scheduled as a Reception Area. For this reason the Registrar General's estimate in relation to the average population over the whole year is probably lower than the actual figure. This will cause the various mortality rates to be approximate only.

(ii) Births.

During the year there were registered to Wolverhampton parents 2,400 births representing a birth-rate of 16.4 per 1,000 population, that for England and Wales being 14.6. Last year the Wolverhampton rate was 16.9.

(iii) Deaths.

The net deaths amounted to 1,858, equivalent to a death rate of 13.1. For England and Wales for 1940 this figure was 14.3, and for the 126 great towns it was 15.8. In 1939 the Wolverhampton death rate was 11.0. The main causes of the increased mortality were a greater number of deaths from cardiac and circulatory diseases and from bronchitis and pneumonia.

(iv) Infant Mortality.

The total deaths of infants under one year were 145, comprising 136 legitimate and 9 illegitimate. The infant mortality rate was 60 deaths per 1,000 births compared with 51 in 1939.

B. TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

No alteration in this service was effected during the year.

C. HOSPITALS.

The extensions at the Royal Hospital were completed at the end of 1940 but the new wing had not then been opened.

D. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR THE CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

The scheme of the Joint Board for providing their own Colony for mental defectives has been forced to remain in abeyance.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.(a) MIDWIVES.

Notifications of intention to practise during 1940 were as follows :-

Trained midwives working in institutions	11
Municipal midwives	17
Trained midwives working independently	14

No complaint about the conduct of any midwife was received. A total of 18 Municipal Midwives were employed during the year, the average number working at any one time being 15. The mean number of cases attended by a midwife was 78, and the maximum number taken by any one midwife was 141. No serious difficulty arose during the year in filling vacancies in the service. No application was made to the Central Midwives Board to restore to the roll the name of any midwife who had voluntarily surrendered her certificate.

(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were eight maternal deaths during the year, giving a maternal mortality of 3.20. A brief summary of these deaths is as follows :-

- (1) Adequate ante-natal care. Death due to toxic vomiting.
- (2) No ante-natal care. Death resulted from criminal abortion.
- (3) Adequate ante-natal care, including hospitalisation. Death from mitral disease and auricular fibrillation two hours after delivery.
- (4) Adequate ante-natal care. Death followed sudden eclampsia.
- (5) Adequate ante-natal care. Death due to Puerperal Mania and Pneumonia.
- (6) Adequate ante-natal care. Cause of death was Haemorrhage resulting from an adherent placenta.
- (7) Adequate ante-natal care. Cause of death Accidental Haemorrhage.
- (8) No ante-natal care. Death due to Septicaemia following abortion.

(c) ANTE-NATAL CARE.

Women in Wolverhampton are gradually becoming more conscious of the desirability for ante-natal care. The number of mothers who fail to avail themselves of the facilities provided in the Borough is developing into a very small minority. During the year 2,668 deliveries took place in Wolverhampton. As the following table shows most of these were examined by a doctor either regularly or at intervals during pregnancy :-

Number attending the Municipal A.N. Clinic	1,023
" " a G.P. under the A.N. Scheme	891
" " A.N. Clinic at Women's Hospital	172
" confined in Nursing Homes who engaged a doctor	415
" " at home known to have engaged a doctor	<u>167</u>
Total :	<u>2,668</u>

The number of women attending the Municipal Clinics shows an increase of 157 over the previous year and the number attending doctors under the A.N. Scheme shows a decrease of 42.

(d) INFANT WELFARE.

All the Infant Welfare Centres and Clinics for expectant mothers were open as usual during the whole of 1940 but attendances were kept as low as possible in order to avoid any large assembly of persons, and mothers were discouraged from staying on the premises after they had been in to see the doctor. The actual number of new cases presenting themselves at the clinics was 1,613 compared with 1,582 in 1938, but the total attendances dropped from 24,287 to 17,408.

The lady health visitors paid a total of 27,186 home visits during the year, paying an average of 3,000 visits each. Visits to infants under one year amounted to 7,831 and to children between one and five years 11,931.

Two of the Municipal Welfare Clinics are also First Aid Posts at which three whole-time female First Aid Post Volunteers are always on duty. These women regularly assist at the Baby Clinics held on their premises, and look forward to this work as a change from their routine duties.

(c) CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

At the beginning of the year there were 42 foster children recorded and 97 visits were paid to them by Infant Life Protection Visitors. Ten of these children were transferred to their mothers or near relatives, six attained the age of nine years, one was adopted, one went into hospital, and one left the district. No new cases of boarded out children were notified or discovered, and only 23 remained on the books at the end of the year.

(f) DAY NURSERIES.

During the summer of 1940 very careful consideration was given to the question of the provision as a wartime measure of one or more day nurseries. On the information obtained at that time it was considered that no case had been made out for such a scheme. In Wolverhampton married women are not employed in industry to any large extent in peace-time, and those mothers who do go to work are in the habit of leaving their youngest children with a near relative. It is a peculiar feature of the life of the town that so many of the married daughters succeed in living in the same neighbourhood and often the same street as their parents.

SECTION C.SAUITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

In compliance with the suggestion of the Ministry of Health the detailed information required in this section is omitted from this report, but all the particulars have been got out as usual and are being filed for reference.

(1) NUISANCES.

Apart from the notices under the various statutory clauses giving powers to require particular amenities, 1,219 premises were reported to the Committee during the year, preparatory to the service of formal notices requiring abatement of nuisances.

Three complaints were received regarding alleged excessive noise from factory premises, but in each case the noise was mitigated by the Firms concerned without recourse to legal proceedings.

(2) OVERCROWDING.Cases of Overcrowding Remedied, 1940.

By Displacements under Part I of the Housing Act, 1936	4
By Displacements under Part II of the Housing Act, 1936	25
By Transference of families in overcrowded Council houses to larger houses	10
By allocation of Council houses to families in privately owned houses	26
By removal or reduction in the size of families	54
	<u>119</u>
Cases remedied after service of notices under sections 59 or 66 of the Housing Act, 1936	2
Total abated	<u>121</u>

(3) DISINFESTATION.

Owing to the state of emergency arising on the outbreak of war in September 1939, the Council's Scheme of disinfection came to an abrupt end on the 4th September, 1939, and arrangements were made with the Dudley Council to utilise their personnel and plant on one day per week, and thereby carry out the normal procedure of disinfection in those cases where serious infestation was obvious; this arrangement terminated in May 1940, and as a number of houses in the Dale Street Area remained to be dealt with, Council entered into a contract with Messrs. Associated Fumigators Ltd., to complete the outstanding cases. The firm commenced on the 9th July, 1940, and completed their contract on the 24th September, 1940.

During 1940 the furniture from 200 houses in clearance areas and two individual unfit houses was dealt with by H.C.N. gas (together with steam disinfection of bedding). In addition, the furniture of four overcrowded families was treated prior to removal. Total cases 204.

(4) OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Under Section 107 (1)(ii) of the Public Health Act, 1936, the control over establishment of the trade of Fish Frying ceased to have effect as from the 1st October, 1940, unless the Council could satisfy the Ministry of Health that a new Order should be made re-scheduling this particular trade as an "offensive trade" for the purposes of the Public Health Act, 1936. Council made very strong representations to the Ministry with a view to continuing control over establishment of this trade, but the Ministry finally decided not to accede to the Council's application. It is most regrettable that the previous control over establishment of this trade has now ceased to function as from the 1st October, 1940, for although Byelaws governing the trade remain operative, Council cannot control the establishment of this trade in unsuitable and undesirable premises.

Offensive Trades : Summary of Action taken
during 1940.

6.

Description of Trade.	Applications		Permits		Statutorily;	
	Received.		Granted		dis-estab-lished,	On Register 31st Dec. 1940.
	New Prem's Renewals	New Prem's Renewals	New Prem's Renewals	New Prem's Renewals		
Bone Boiler	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fat Melter or Extractor	1	1	1	1	1	2
Fellmonger and Hide or Skin Dealer	1	1	1	1	1	2
Fish Fryer	1	1	1	1	2	2
Gut Scraper	1	1	1	1	1	2
Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer	1	1	1	1	1	3
Tripe Boiler	3	3	3	3	1	4
TOTALS	1	7	1	7	2	14

* Control of such premises ceased on the 1st October, 1940.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.(1) THE DALE STREET CLEARANCE SCHEME.

This scheme was originally represented to Council on the 9th January, 1938, but on the 13th March, 1939, Council decided to deal with the scheme as eight separate Areas, three of which were declared as Clearance Areas. The Public Inquiry was duly held on the 9th August, 1939, but on the outbreak of hostilities, in September, 1939, the Ministry intimated that the Orders would not be confirmed until the cessation of hostilities, unless the Council had special representations to make on the matter. In view of the fact that some 200 houses included on the No.1 Area were in a particularly serious state of disrepair, such special representations were made, and the Compulsory Purchase Order with regard to the No.1 Area was duly confirmed by the Minister on the 30th April, 1940, becoming operative on the 14th June, 1940.

(2) CLEARANCE SCHEMES - YEARLY PROGRESS.

The following table summarises the progress to date :-

Year	Statute	Scheme	No. of Houses Demolished		No. of Persons Displaced
			Pink	Grey	
1925	Housing Acts, 1890 to 1919:	Faulkland Street Improvement Area: C.P.O.	279	.	1,493
1932	Housing Act, 1930	Brickkiln Croft Area: C.P.O.	67	2	308
1933	Housing Act, 1930	do	82	6	400
1934	do	do	3	5	24
"	do	Walsall St. (West) Area: C.P.O.	20	-	94
1935	do	do	406	4	1,953
1936	do	do	20	1	73
	do	Canon Street Area: C.P.O.	5	-	21
	do	Walsall St. (East) C.P.O.	64	1	267
1937	do	do	300	-	1,071
	do	Walsall St. (West) C.P.O.	1	-	12
	do	Wood Street (No.1) Area: C.P.O.	7	-	14
	do	Wood Street (No.2) " C.P.O.	13	-	64
	do	Shrubbery St. Area: C.P.O.	3	-	11
	do	Ward Street Area: C.P.O.	11	-	50
	do	Navigation St. Area: C.P.O.	-	-	-
1938	do	Walsall St. (West) Area: C.P.O.	1	2	9
	do	Walsall St. (East) Area: C.P.O.	79	-	353
	do	Wood Street (No.1) Area: C.P.O.	-	-	41
	do	Shrubbery St. Area: C.P.O.	18	-	75
	do	Navigation St. Area: C.P.O.	45	-	170
	Housing Act 1936	Monmore Green (No.1) Area: C.P.O.	119	1	507
	do	Monmore Grn (No.1A) Area: C.P.O.	7	-	50
	do	Monmore Grn (No.2) Area: C.P.O.	-	-	42
	do	Monmore Grn (No.2A) " C.P.O.	5	-	13
	do	Moseley Village (No.1) Area: C.P.O.	2	-	11
1939	do	do	4	-	24
	Housing Act, 1930	Walsall St. (East) Area: C.P.O.	2	3	8
	Housing Act, 1936	Monmore Green (No.1) Area: C.P.O.	143	5	793
	do	Monmore Grn (No.2A) Area: C.P.O.	2	-	3
	do	Monmore Grn (No.3) Area: C.P.O.	13	-	61
	do	Monmore Grn (No.4) Area: C.P.O.	28	-	113
1940	do	Monmore Grn (No.1) Area: C.P.O.	17	5	78
	do	Moseley Village (No.1) Area: C.P.O.	64	-	254
	do	Moseley Village (No.2) Area: C.P.O.	6	-	19
	do	Dale Street (No.1) Area: C.P.O.	8	-	32
TOTALS			1,858	35	8,266

(3) INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

During 1940 eleven Demolition Orders were made on individual unfit houses in default of owner's compliance with Statutory Undertakings. Six of these Orders were cancelled by the County Court Judge on Appeal

<u>Results Obtained.</u>		<u>During</u> <u>1940</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>to Date</u>
(a)	Number of persons displaced ... Under Section 11	516	7,330
	... Under Section 12	Nil	165
	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>516</u>	<u>7,495</u>
(b)	<u>Demolition &c. Progress:</u>		
i.	Houses demolished before Demolition Orders could be served	Nil	4
ii.	Number of houses demolished pursuant to Demolition Orders	163	1,862
	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>1,866</u>
(c)	(1) <u>Statutory Undertakings:-</u>		
	Complied with and cancelled (Thoroughly reconditioned)....	31	222
(ii)	Discontinued as separate dwellings and embodied in adjoining houses (including "back-to-back" converted).....	3	60
(iii)	Undertakings "Not to use for human habitation" determined (premises rendered fit)	-	1
(iv)	Work in Progress	-	51
(v)	Remaining operative (i.e. Not to use as a dwelling)	-	46
(vi)	Cancelled and Demolition Orders made (on default of owners' compliance with Undertaking) such Demolition Orders remaining operative	5	62
	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>442</u>
(d)	<u>Closing Orders:-</u>		
(i)	Determined (i.e. rendered fit)..	-	42
(ii)	Remaining operative	-	23
	<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>65</u>
(e)	<u>Voluntary Demolition:-</u>		
	Number of houses voluntarily demolished in anticipation of formal action... ..	21	357

(4) NEW HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

During 1940 there were 172 houses built by the Corporation and 49 by private enterprise.

(5) THE HOUSING (EMERGENCY POWERS) ACT, 1939:

The following details show the action taken to date with respect to the permanent repair of houses damaged by enemy action:-

	:Referred from:Work com- :B.E. after :pleted by :completion of:Corp'n as :"First aid" : "First aid": :Repairs. :Repairs. :	:Notices:Permanent :Served :Repairs com- :Section:pleted by 1. :owners. :	:Work com- :pleted by :Corporation :under Section: : 1 (ii). :	:Cases re- :maining in :abeyance. :
1940	: 14 : 6 : 5 : 3 : 4 : 1			
to Date	: 14 : 6 : 5 : 3 : 4 : 1			

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY.(1) AMENDMENT OR EXTENSION OF STATUTORY POWERS:

As Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, gives more comprehensive powers than Section 66 of the Wolverhampton Corporation Act, 1936, with regard to the registration of premises whereon Ice Cream and/or Potted or Preserved Foods are manufactured, Council applied to the Ministry of Health for an Order to be made declaring the former Section to be in force within the district. The application was agreed to and under the Wolverhampton (Food) Order, 1940, the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were declared to be in force within the district as from the 1st day of August, 1940.

(2) BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES OF MILK.

Tabular summary is as follows :-

Grade of Milk	: Number reported				: Result of subse-		TOTAL		
	: positive to				: quent action		: Number of Bovinos		
	: No. of : Tubercle bacilli				: under Tubercul-		: slaughtered at		
	: samples:				: osis Order 1938.		: Abattoir under Order		
	: submitt-	: Prod-	: Prod-		: No. of	: Result:	: From	: From	
	: ed for	: uced	: uced		: anim-	: of	: Premises	: prem-	
	: :Biolog-	: within:	: out-		: als	: furth-	: within	: ises	
	: ical ex:	: bor-	: side		: slau-	: er	: the	: out-	
	: aminat-	: ough.	: bor-		: ghter:	: sample:	: Bor-	: side	TOTAL
	: ion in	: ough.	: bor-	TOTAL:	: ed.		: ough.	: bor-	
	: 1940,								
Tuberculin									
Tested	: 7	: -	: -	: -	: -	: -			
Accredited	: 25	: 3	: -	: 3	: 3	: Neg.			
Pastourised	: 4	: -	: -	: -	: -	: -			
Ungraded	: 30	: 2	: 2	: 4	: 5	: Neg.			
TOTALS ...	: 64	: 5	: 2	: 7	: 8	: -	: 11	: 34	: 45

(3) PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

One full time Inspector is employed at the Public Abattoir, and a further District Inspector is on duty throughout the week, two Inspectors thus being employed full time on this work.

Diseased or unsound meat and offals of a total of 144 tons were condemned; the figure last year was 165 tons.

During the year, the number of animals slaughtered was considerably above the average, and for the whole year shows an increase of 15,000 over 1939.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, 45 animals were slaughtered, as against 122 in 1939. 17 of these were totally condemned on account of advanced tuberculosis against 16 similar condemnations last year. Five of the above animals were taken from premises within the borough, and two of these were wholly condemned.

Ante mortem inspection at the sale yards by the Veterinary Officer has resulted in a number of animals being sent to the Abattoir for slaughter. On examination such animals were found to be affected chiefly with tuberculosis or mammitis.

(4) ICE CREAM.

The following table shows the results of bacteriological examination of Ice Cream :-

RESULT OF BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION										
Number of bacteria per cubic centimetre							B. Coli in		No. of	
0 to 1,000:	1,000 to 5,000:	5,000 to 10,000:	10,000 to 100,000:	100,000 to 500,000:	500,000 to 1,000,000:	Over 1,000,000:	0.01 c.c.		Samples	
Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	reaching		Pastour'd	
									standard.	
1	-	-	2	3	-	2	6	2	3	

(5) THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.(a) Sampling.

583 samples of food and drugs were taken during the year for analysis by the Public Analyst, consisting of 123 formal and 260 informal supplies. 47 samples (12.27%) consisting of 52 formal samples and 15 informal samples were found to be non-genuine.

170 milk samples were submitted for analysis, and 35 (20.05%) were reported to be adulterated or below the presumptive standard of 3% milk fat laid down by the Sale of Milk Regulations. 30 samples of milk were found to contain added water in amounts varying from 1% to 91.0%. 21 of these samples were obtained from 4 producers, and 9 samples were obtained from three producers. Proceedings were instituted in respect of 19 samples. Convictions were recorded in each case, the total fines inflicted amounting to £15, and the costs imposed £32.2.6d.

Three samples of sterilised milk, two informal and one formal, were found to contain 58%, 81% and 91% of extraneous water. Undoubtedly the water gained access to the milk during the processing of the milk due to faulty fitting of the corks. The firm was communicated with and steps were taken to obviate the putting on sale of such milk.

With respect to other non-genuine samples of milk where the deficiency was one of milk fat in each case, samples taken at the farm proved that the deficiency was a natural one, or else the deficiency was so small as not to justify the institution of proceedings. In 3 instances letters of warning were sent by the Town Clerk to the vendors concerned. 7 "Appeal to Cow" samples were taken at various farms situated outside the borough. One sample was found to contain a small amount of added water, a sample taken from a similar milking the following day was genuine.

Three samples of a substance popular with vegetarians marketed as "Nut Butter" and at the same price as genuine butter, were found to be in all respects within the definition of "margarine" as contained in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

No infringement of the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations or the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations were reported.

(b) Preservatives.

All samples submitted for analysis are examined for the presence of a preservative. No prohibited preservatives or colouring matter were found, and no preservative was found in any article of food to which the addition of a preservative of any description is forbidden.

Two samples of sausage were found to contain preservative within the permitted limit, but declarations of its presence were not made; proceedings were instituted; convictions were recorded and a fine of £2 and 13/6d. costs was inflicted in each case.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

In the winter of 1939-40 Wolverhampton had a low incidence of infectious diseases, an experience shared by the rest of the county. In the latter part of 1940 there was an epidemic of whooping cough and also an increased virulence in the type of diphtheria prevalent indicated by a rising mortality rate.

SCARLET FEVER.

375 cases of scarlet fever were notified, 91 less than 1939. The diagnosis was revised in 9 giving a net incidence of 365 or 2.5 per 1,000. 249 or 66% were treated in hospital. No deaths were recorded. 'Return' cases numbered 16 or 6.4%. Encouragement is given to practitioners to treat cases at home when satisfactory isolation can be arranged but unfortunately it is not possible in the majority of cases.

DIPHTHERIA.

186 notification of diphtheria were received. Deducting 29 cases of revised diagnosis, the net incidence was 157 or 1.1 per 1,000, compared with 0.6 per 1,000 in 1939. It was noted that virulence appeared to increase in the latter part of the year, the mortality rate rising and young adults apparently more at risk than usual. There were 23 deaths, a case mortality rate of 12.4% for the year. The case mortality in each quarter was:- 1st quarter 4%; 2nd quarter 6%; 3rd quarter 8%; 4th quarter 17%.

MEASLES.

Measles did not reach a high incidence in any part of the year. 328 cases were notified and one death was recorded.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There was a rising incidence of whooping cough during the year reaching epidemic prevalence in November and December. The total cases notified was 644 and three deaths were recorded.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ENTERIC FEVER: Two cases were notified. No deaths occurred.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER: 19 cases were notified and 13 treated in hospital. Five deaths were recorded, two of which had not been notified. The number of deaths seems high compared with the number notified. The cases were spread more or less evenly over the year, Wolverhampton not showing the increased incidence which occurred in the early part of the year in most areas of the country.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS: A short outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred in August and September when 25 of the 27 cases notified in the year occurred. There was one death. Both children and adults were affected and cases were scattered throughout the town.

ERYSIPELAS: 54 cases were notified. Ten were treated in hospital and two deaths were recorded.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA: None notified. Two deaths registered.

541 cases were treated at the Borough Hospital including 55 from other local authorities.

(a) SCARLET FEVER.

277 cases of scarlet fever were admitted, a decrease of 142 on the previous year. Deducting 12 in which the diagnosis was revised leaves a net total of 265. Complication rates were as follows :- adonitis 6.7%, otitis media 5.6%, mastoiditis 0.4%, nephritis 0.4%, albuminuria 0.8%, rheumatism 1.1% and endocarditis 0.4%. There were no deaths.

(b) DIPHTHERIA.

193 cases were treated, an increase of 27 compared with 1939. Included in the total are 13 from other areas. Subtracting 32 in which the diagnosis was revised and 3 which proved to be 'carriers' leaves a net total of 158 actual cases of diphtheria. There were 20 deaths, a case mortality rate of 12.7% (compared with 8.8% in 1939). The increased mortality coincides with an increasing virulence observed clinically to which may be correlated the high incidence of paralyses, e.g. paralysis of the palate occurred in 42 patients (26.8%).

Analysis of Deaths (a) by Age: 0-5 years 8, 5-10 years 10, over 10 years 2.
(b) by Day of Disease on admission:-
3rd day or earlier 7, 4th day or later 13.
(c) By Day of disease at death :-
Within one week of onset 13, 2nd week or later 7.

As might be expected with the virulent type of infection, there was a high proportion of early deaths, 13 dying within one week of onset. Haemorrhagic features usually typical of such cases were exceptional.

Laryngeal Diphtheria or 'Croup'.

Number treated 5, tracheotomy performed in 3, deaths 2.

Diphtheria 'Carriers'.

Number treated 3. (Nasal 1, Throat 2).

Immunised Persons admitted as suffering from Diphtheria.

Two cases were admitted known to have been immunised previously. One was a temporary carrier associated with pneumococcal tonsillitis and the other was a simple tonsillitis with no evidence of diphtheria infection.

Respiratory Paralysis.

The Both Respirator was brought into use on two occasions, viz :-

- (1) A boy aged 5 years developed partial paralysis of the diaphragm on the 49th day of a severe attack of diphtheria. Paralysis was complete on the 52nd day and he was then placed in the Both respirator. He had associated paralyses of the palate and pharynx. He succumbed to heart failure on the 55th day.
- (2) A boy of twelve years was admitted on the sixth day of a severe attack of anterior poliomyelitis. Both legs and one arm were already paralysed. Next day he had paralyses of his intercostal muscles and the diaphragm was acting but feebly. He was placed in the respirator with relief to his respiratory distress. He was maintained in the respirator continuously for nine weeks and thereafter was allowed increasing periods daily out of the respirator until it was possible to dispense with its use entirely after twelve weeks when full diaphragm and intercostal action had returned.

Other diseases treated during the year included :-

Anterior Poliomyelitis	15
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	4
Enteric Fever	2
Erysipelas	4
Measles	5
Rumps	1
Rubella	17
Whooping Cough	2

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Of the 15 cases admitted there was one death, a child of eight years admitted moribund with respiratory failure superimposed on a pre-existing empyema. The paralyses observed were :- upper limbs 3, lower limbs 12, respiratory 1, ocular 1. The one case of respiratory paralysis was treated with success in the Both respirator. Cases were maintained in isolation for six weeks and thereafter transferred as fit for continuation of treatment of paralyses at an orthopaedic clinic.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

All cases were treated with sulphapyridine. One case died, a child of eight months.

Enteric Fever.

The two cases treated made straightforward recoveries. One was a B. Typhosus infection, the other a Paratyphoid B infection.

Erysipelas.

All four cases were of the facial type and made good recoveries.

Deaths from causes other than diphtheria were as follows :-

Anterior Poliomyelitis	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1
Acute Peritonsillitis	1
Whooping Cough	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

In 1940 propaganda was pursued by the further display of the film "Growing to Health and Happiness" (at local cinemas), the issue of leaflets to parents of children attending infant schools and direct approach to parents at welfare centres.

A total of 1,106 schoolchildren were immunised comprising 924 done in school, 155 at welfare centres and 27 at the Borough Hospital. In addition, 394 children under school age were immunised, 362 at welfare centres and 32 at the Borough Hospital, making a grand total of 1,500 for the year.

Immunisations done at the various welfare centres and at the Borough Hospital are summarised below :-

<u>Welfare Centre.</u>	<u>Pre-School Children.</u>	<u>School Children</u>	<u>No. of Injections</u>
Lea Road	159	80	568
Ward Street	37	15	111
Stafford Street	45	5	131
Park Lane	117	55	577
Moseley Village	4	-	8
	362	155	1,195
Borough Hospital	32	27	116
Total:	394	182	1,511

The immunising agent used was Alum Precipitated Toxoid, the initial dose being 0.2 c.cm. and the final dose 0.5 c.cm., with an interval of one month except in cases immunised at the Borough Hospital in which it is only possible to allow a fortnight's interval. As a check on the efficacy of the immunising agent, Schick Tests are carried out six months after. The results indicate that with one months interval between the injections 96.3% are rendered immuno, and with a fortnights interval 90.5%

Schick Tests at Welfare Centres.

<u>Immunising Agent.</u>	<u>Schick Test</u>	<u>No. Tested.</u>	<u>Percentage.</u>
A.P.T.			
0.2 c.cm and 0.5 c.cm.	Negative	183	96.3
Monthly interval	Positive	7	3.7
<hr/>			
A.P.T.			
0.2 c.cm and 0.5 c.cm.	Negative	21	90.5
Fortnightly interval	Positive	2	9.5

Children found susceptible by the Schick Test are given a further inoculation and retested three months later. The results are as follows :-

Schick Tests after Re-inoculation.

<u>Primary Course</u>		<u>Primary Course</u>	
<u>A.P.T., 1 months interval</u>		<u>A.P.T., fortnights interval</u>	
<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>
-	12	-	5

TUBERCULOSIS.

(i) Notification Register: The register on 31st December, 1940, included 362 males and 300 females suffering from Pulmonary tuberculosis, and 95 males and 79 females suffering from Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis, making a total of 836 cases.

(ii) Incidence: Now cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health amounted to 123 compared with 119 in 1939 and 163 in 1938.

(iii) Mortality: From Respiratory tuberculosis the deaths were 57 males, 33 females. From Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis the figures were 9 males, 8 females. This gives a tuberculosis death rate of 0.75 per 1,000 population, the Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary rates being 0.63 and 0.12 respectively.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

There was no significant change in the number of new cases of syphilis or gonorrhoea attending the Wolverhampton Treatment Centre during 1939 and 1940. The mean number of new cases of syphilis registered during 1934-1938 was 283 whilst the figures for 1939 and 1940 were 210 and 225 respectively. As regards gonorrhoea, the mean number of new cases for the same quinquennium was 332 whilst the figures for 1939 and 1940 were 255 and 209. This drop affected males and females in almost equal proportions. One possible explanation is the greater extent to which this form of V.D. is now dealt with by the general practitioner. The percentage of defaulters from treatment showed little variation being 4% in the case of syphilis and 7.7% in the case of gonorrhoea.

